Implementation of the scheme:

A scheme of this nature, involving children and students at various levels, needs to be nurtured very sensitively. At the first two levels, namely, Science Innovation and Summer Camp, the scheme is proposed to be implemented through a bottom-up approach by involving the District/State level systems dealing with school education in these age groups, including the Departments of Education and State Councils on Science and Technology in the various states and also the NCERT.

The Assured Opportunity for Research Career component will be implemented through National S and T Institutions like the lISc, Sangalore, Homi Bhabha Centre for Science Education, Bombay, S N. Bose Centre for Basic Sciences, Calcutta, who have enormous experience in handling Research students and nurturing them into a research career.

The over all scheme "INSPIRE" will be administered by the Government of India through the Department of Science and Technology with the guidance of a National level apex structure to be created for this purpose.

Shifting of Sangam in Allahabad

104. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Sangam in Allahabad, the site of Ardh Kumbh, where Ganga, Yamuna and mythical Saraswati rivers meet has shifted Westwards by about 900 metres;

(b) if so, whether the analysis done by a Professor of Civil Engineering at IIT. Kanpur and Ph.D. student of the Landset Satellite data proved that the confluence has actually moved;

(c) whether this shifting is due to active tectonics in the Allahabad region or the 'river load' obstructing the flow of the river; and

(d) whether Government are thinking of having a detailed study in such matters so that faith of the devotees is not shaken?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) The study being cited does not clearly suggest with what reference point and in what time scale the Sangam has shifted. However, a number of rivers do oscillate as a function of channel avulsion within the braided regime confined to basic limits of main channel spread. This is a natural phenomenon.

(b) NT Kanpur has not formally accomplished any specific/ comprehensive study.

(c) Only detailed scientific analysis would clarify the exact cause of this phenomenon.

(d) At the moment no such study is being planned.

Scientific research and development

†105. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has ranked at lower position in field of scientific research and development in the world;

(b) if so, the number of application filed by Indian scientists and other developed and developing countries for patenting new inventions during the last five years; and

(c) the remedial steps taken to boost the progress in the field of research and development in India?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) No Sir. Any comparison of India's position in scientific research and development *vis-a-vis* other countries is unrealistic in view of the availability of resources, infrastructure for R & D and wage differentials. International comparison in scientific research and development is generally made in terms of expenditure on R & D as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). According to the available official statistics, India's expenditure on Research and Development (R & D) of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is lower compared to that in the developed countries and a

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.